

The Broderick Report

By Supervisor Gerry Broderick

For Residents of Milwaukee County’s 3rd District

Winter 2004 / 2005

Milwaukee County Board adopts responsible 2005 budget that retains vital County Services

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors recently approved a fiscally responsible County Budget for 2005 that retains vital programs and services. Despite rising costs, the County Board constructed a budget that does not require massive borrowing to fund employee pensions or the sale of huge amounts of County land to balance the budget, as proposed by the County Executive. The County Board was able to remove a significant amount of “one-time” revenues, preserve key services and programs and limit the overall tax levy to 2.9% above 2004.

The County Board reviewed the County Executive’s Recommended Budget and made some key changes to help restore long-term fiscal responsibility to County finances. The County Executive proposed to borrow, through the use of pension obligation bonds, hundreds of millions of dollars to fund the County pension plan in hopes that investment returns would exceed the borrowing costs. The County Board chose not to include the pension obligation bond plan for several reasons, including the lack of detailed information about its significant risks and the need to change state law before the plan could be implemented.

The County Executive also wanted to sell more than \$11 million of County land to balance the operating budget for 2005. The County Board reduced the amount of “one-time” land sale revenue anticipated for 2005 by \$6.6 million to better reflect the policy put forth in the 2004 budget by the County Executive that “budgeting of land sales to support ongoing operations is not a recommended financial practice.” This action reduces the pressure in future years to

sell public lands, cut programs or raise taxes to balance the operating budget.

The 2005 Budget retains vital and popular County programs and services, from the Department on Aging that cares for the frail elderly, to our nationally recognized Zoological Gardens. The County Board also restored funding for UW-Extension programs and the Farm and Fish Hatchery Program at the House of Correction. This program provides much needed fresh produce to local food pantries and stocks fish in County Park lagoons for anglers

of all ages to enjoy. Transit and paratransit riders will also see no route cuts or fare increases for the first time in several years.

The 2005 Budget contains total expenditures of \$1.18 billion and a property tax levy of \$225.8 million. The 2.9% change in the tax levy for 2005 is significantly less than the increase in new construction (new taxable properties) and the rate of inflation, which totals 3.9%. The property tax rate per \$1,000 of equalized value is \$4.54, which is a *decrease* of 22 cents per \$1,000 from 2004.



Update: Helicopter pad near the south end of Lake Park

Columbia-St. Mary's recently completed construction of a temporary emergency services helicopter pad at the base of the hill near the south end of Lake Park. The area is behind the parking lot at 2275 North Lincoln Memorial Drive. The hospital needed to relocate the pad to accommodate construction of the replacement hospital for St. Mary's and Columbia Hospitals.

After considering numerous sites in the vicinity, it was decided that the base of the hill would be the only suitable location to meet FAA requirements and mitigate the potential negative impact on the surrounding neighbor-

hood. The average traffic to the Columbia-St. Mary's Burn Center seldom exceeds four flights per month.

This land is not in Lake Park and consequently is not in county jurisdiction. The City of Milwaukee has leased the land to Columbia-Saint Mary's for a period of three years through September 2007.

The Milwaukee Board of Zoning Appeals approved the temporary use of the helicopter pad in July 2004. All costs of landscaping and returning the land to its natural condition will be born by the hospital itself.

CONTACT
SUPERVISOR
GERRY BRODERICK

Phone: 278-4237
Email: gbrodercik@mlwcnty.com
Legislative Assistant: Joe Cisewski
Fax: 223-1380



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Courthouse, Room 201
901 North 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233



County Supervisor Gerry Broderick
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 North 9th Street, Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT 1630

Current resident or

Park East Development and the Community Benefits Agreement

The demolition of the Park East Expressway has made 16.6 acres of county owned land available for future development. To make certain that our community receives an equitable return on the sale of its land, Supervisor Broderick and others serving on the Committee to Redevelop the Park East have established a set of goals to guide developers in offering proposals for the use of that land.

Those guidelines, known as the Community Benefits Agreement, recommend the creation of a financing mechanism which will receive no less than 50% of the proceeds from land sales. Provisions of the agreement also include local hiring preferences, enhanced apprenticeship programs, increased green space, inclusion of an affordable housing component, and compliance with disadvantaged business enterprise goals. While developers and pro-business interests have expressed some concern that these expectations will unduly retard development (thus depriving the city of vital tax base), Broderick and a coalition of supervisors have endorsed a deliberate process that balances community interests

with long-term job creation and economic growth.

Under the resolution, a Community Oversight Board comprised of nine to eleven citizens from a broad cross-section of the community will be appointed by the County Board Chairperson and will monitor success or failure in meeting these *goals*. The only *requirement* the Agreement imposes is payment of prevailing wages to workers involved Park East construction, as was done in both the Midwest Airlines Convention Center and Miller Park projects. Supervisor Broderick favored a “fluid and flexible” policy which would allow innovative and creative approaches to the goals enumerated rather than rigid, regulatory efforts as have been imposed in other resolutions.

The Milwaukee County Board approved this proposal on December 16th, 2004.



Supervisor Broderick joins his colleagues on the County Board at a press conference in the County Board Offices announcing the Park East Redevelopment Compact (PERC) proposal.

The Shorewood Senior Resource Center (SRC)

The mission of the Shorewood Senior Resource Center is to promote safe, healthy, life enriching activities for village residents age 60 and older.

On November 11th of last year, I had an enjoyable time visiting with the members of the Center and discussing the 2005 County Budget. The facility was as impressive as the members were friendly.

Director Elizabeth Price describes the Center’s offerings as intended to encourage seniors to remain active and vital members of the community.

Programs include art classes, bridge and sheepshead groups, a yoga class, a book discussion group, a functional fitness program (using Tai Chi-like techniques to achieve

balance, strength, and emotional well-being), as well as a monthly luncheon featuring entertainment and followed by a One Hour Bingo Fest and more!

A calendar of events can be obtained by calling the SRC at the number listed below.

There is no membership charged to Shorewood residents and the cost of non-resident membership is modest.

If you are interested in further information, call or visit the Shorewood Senior Center soon. Its offices are located on the lower level of the Shorewood Library, 2010 E. Shorewood Blvd. (414) 847-2727.

The SRC office is staffed Monday through Thursday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Riverwest and East side bikers gradually linking to Milwaukee County’s Oak Leaf Trail

With the involvement of local residents, businesses and the River Revitalization Foundation, the Milwaukee County Parks Department is proposing the construction of a 4,000 foot bike trail in an abandoned railroad corridor along the west bank of the Milwaukee River, just upstream from downtown Milwaukee.

The project will connect existing and proposed City of Milwaukee paths, linking downtown Milwaukee with Riverwest and East Side neighborhoods. The consensus is to create a multi-use trail that would connect with existing and proposed City of Milwaukee trails at both North Avenue and Locust Street. Eventually, a formal connection with Milwaukee County’s Oak Leaf Trail, which runs along the east bank of the Milwaukee River, will link numerous County parks and parkways.

Budget Facts: Taxes & State Mandates

Many people are not aware that the State of Wisconsin **requires** Milwaukee County to fund areas of service such as the State Court System, Youth Delinquency Services and the Sheriff’s Department Detention Bureau.

State-Required Funding From County Property Taxes	
State Court System	\$32,772,497
Youth Delinquency Services	20,495,725
Sheriff’s Detention Bureau	40,008,514
DHS Patient Services	31,221,161
House of Correction	35,876,909
Total	\$160,374,806
Milwaukee County Tax Levy	
Milwaukee County Tax Levy	\$219,494,183
State Required Funding	160,374,806
Remaining Tax Levy	\$59,119,377

Over 73% of the Milwaukee County tax levy is used to pay for state-required programs and services. Instead of calling it a **County Property Tax**, it should be renamed a **State Property Tax**! State mandates have increased at a rate of 3.22% per year.

Town Hall Meetings

with
**County Supervisor
Gerry Broderick**
3rd District
Milwaukee’s East Side, Downtown, Shorewood

Wednesday, February 9th
East Side Public Library
1910 E. North Ave.
7:00pm
(414) 286-3058

Thursday, February 10th
Shorewood Public Library
3920 N. Murray Ave.
7:00pm
(414) 847-2670

Lakefront Development Advisory Commission

The Milwaukee County Board recently took the lead in creating the Lakefront Development Advisory Commission, a multi-jurisdictional commission intended to screen any and all development proposals on Milwaukee County’s lakefront.

The Commission grew out of the community’s concern about the cumulative impact of numerous development proposals intended for lakefront sites.

While the Commission’s role is purely advisory, it is intended as a mandatory “front door” through which any intended development must pass. The commission will gather and analyze information submitted by developers, apply existing standards to those proposals, and hear public testimony before making its recommendation to the involved units of government.

Advocates of the Commission’s creation believe it will help inform public opinion and provide developers with timely responses to

their plans, while ensuring that only the most appropriate projects will win its recommendation.

The composition of the Commission includes the Chairman of the Milwaukee County Parks, Energy, and Environment Committee, the Superintendent of the Milwaukee County Parks Department, the Department of City Development, the Chairman of the Milwaukee Harbor Commission, elected officials from the City of Milwaukee and its suburbs, and representatives of the county’s environmental and business communities.

The Commission’s next public hearing is scheduled for January 19th, 2005 at 6:30 PM in the Harbor Lights Room of the Downtown Transit Center, 909 E. Michigan Street. It will focus on the berthing site of the USS Des Moines along the seawall in Veteran’s Park (see article on right side of this page). Public attendance is encouraged.

Lake Park Friends and the "Poet's Walk"

Two members of the Lake Park Friends, Paul Toonen and Roland Daneau, have developed a long-term fundraising and park beautification plan which aims to provide additional benches in Lake Park. The organization hopes to decrease the distance residents must walk before finding areas to sit and enjoy nature. The Lake Park Friends also hope to fund the entire project through private donations by residents of Milwaukee County. A poetic inscription, to be decided by the donor in collaboration with the Lake Park Friends, will accompany each bench. When completed the sixteen location plan will become a “poet’s walk” through the park, and should greatly enhance the enjoyment of park users.

Two benches paid for by the Lake Park Friends were installed in mid-December. The first was placed east of the bus turnaround at Locust Street, facing the Indian mound. The second was placed between Linnwood Street and Lake



Drive, facing south. The installation, material cost, segregated maintenance fund contribution, and accompanying inscription requires a donation of \$2,000. Membership in Lake Park Friends is open and welcomed. The Friends are currently seeking donors interested in participation in the program.

If you or someone you know is interested in further information, please contact the Friends of Lake Park at (414) 962-1680 or send an email to info@lakeparkfriends.org.

Parks Segregated Trust Fund

In June, 2004, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors requested that the Milwaukee County Park System make recommendations that could be used to establish a segregated fund for the Park System. The purpose of this fund is to give the Milwaukee County Park System flexibility to apply for grants, accept private donations, and ensure that if parkland is sold that the money is reinvested in our parks.

As a result, the MCPS and County Board staff submitted a final report for the December Parks, Energy & Environment and Finance & Audit Committees recommending the establishment of a trust account that would allow deposits from the sale of excess parkland and private donations. This report was reviewed and approved by the Department of Administrative Services, Corporation Counsel, County

Controller and Department of Audit. The Milwaukee County Park System will use this account to match federal and state grants, purchase parkland and undertake capital improvement projects. The official name of the parks segregated fund is the Milwaukee County Park System Trust Fund Account.

The Parks, Energy & Environment Committee approved the segregated trust fund on December 7th and will be reviewed by the Finance & Audit Committee on December 8th. This fund will not be formally adopted until it is approved at the full County Board and signed by the Milwaukee County Executive. The County Board debated the measure at its December 16th meeting. For more information, you can visit the Parks Department website at: www.countyparks.com

U.S.S. Des Moines

The proposal to locate the USS Des Moines along the lake wall at Veteran’s Park has met with overwhelming opposition from constituents of our district. A group of well-intentioned veterans envisions the Des Moines as yet another lakefront veteran’s memorial. This version, however, offers a new and curious twist. The Des Moines would be available for rental. I wonder at the notion of summoning the constraint necessary to celebrate your daughter’s wedding with the solemnity appropriate to such a memorial. Or, what about the rich kid’s stag party? Here’s a brief sampling of constituent opinion on which I base my opposition.

Among those expressing opposition to the idea are a number of 3rd district naval veterans, including Herb Heavenrich who wrote the following:

“Not only would it (the Des Moines) obscure our treasured view of the lakefront, it would act as a constant reminder to those of us who served in World War II of what happened to so many poor sailors. Major naval bases such as those in Norfolk and Hampton Roads already preserve these museum pieces for those who want to see them. As a former Chief Economic Advisor to Mayor Henry Meier, I am well aware of how the so called benefits of such *tourist attractions* are almost always over blown. This project would likely wind up as a financial boondoggle that would cost local taxpayers a bundle.”

Beyond aesthetic, environmental, and economic concerns lie questions regarding the need of increased parking and the added infrastructure that would be necessary to accommodate the Des Moines. J.T., a Shorewood resident, typified the disbelieving tone of many constituent comments:

“This is the most obnoxious suggestion for the lakefront that I can remember. This monstrosity is the size of three football fields, forcing everyone using, or going through the lakefront area to look at blocks and blocks of metal. I can’t believe it is even being considered.”

Or, Thomas Eschweiler, who writes: “This huge ship is grossly out of scale. Compared to every other structure it would be an inadmissible addition. Talk about having an elephant in your living room. Its massive length would dominate every other architectural structure along the waterfront. The requisite dredging to site this monstrosity would do environmental damage and be done at enormous expense. I strongly encourage you to oppose this proposal.”

Unfortunately, the group proposing the project has been inflexible on the issue of location.

A hearing will be held on the Des Moines issue before the newly formed Lakefront Development Advisory Commission (see article on upper left of this page) on Wednesday, January 19, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the Harbor Lights room of the Downtown Transit Center, 909 E. Michigan St.

To understand more about this proposal and its opponent’s views visit: www.preserveourparks.org.

Brady Street Bridge Construction

Those traveling Lincoln Memorial Drive have noted that the new Brady Street Bridge is nearing completion.

The former bridge had become functionally obsolete and was in need of rehabilitation. The old path, stairway, and bridge, which provided pedestrian and bicycle access to the lakefront, did not meet the Americans with Disabilities Act standards and had to be replaced.

The new 125 foot span will tie directly into the Oak Leaf Trail on the west side of Lincoln Memorial Drive. A series of switchbacks are being used to diminish the severity of the grade necessary to get across Lincoln Memorial Drive.

When the project is completed, bicyclists, pedestrians, and individuals in wheel chairs



will be able to access the lakefront from Prospect Avenue without the need to negotiate steep stairways.

The project is scheduled for completion in January of this year.

Also of note is the completion of the city's

North Avenue Dam Bridge, which was dedicated on December 15th of last year.

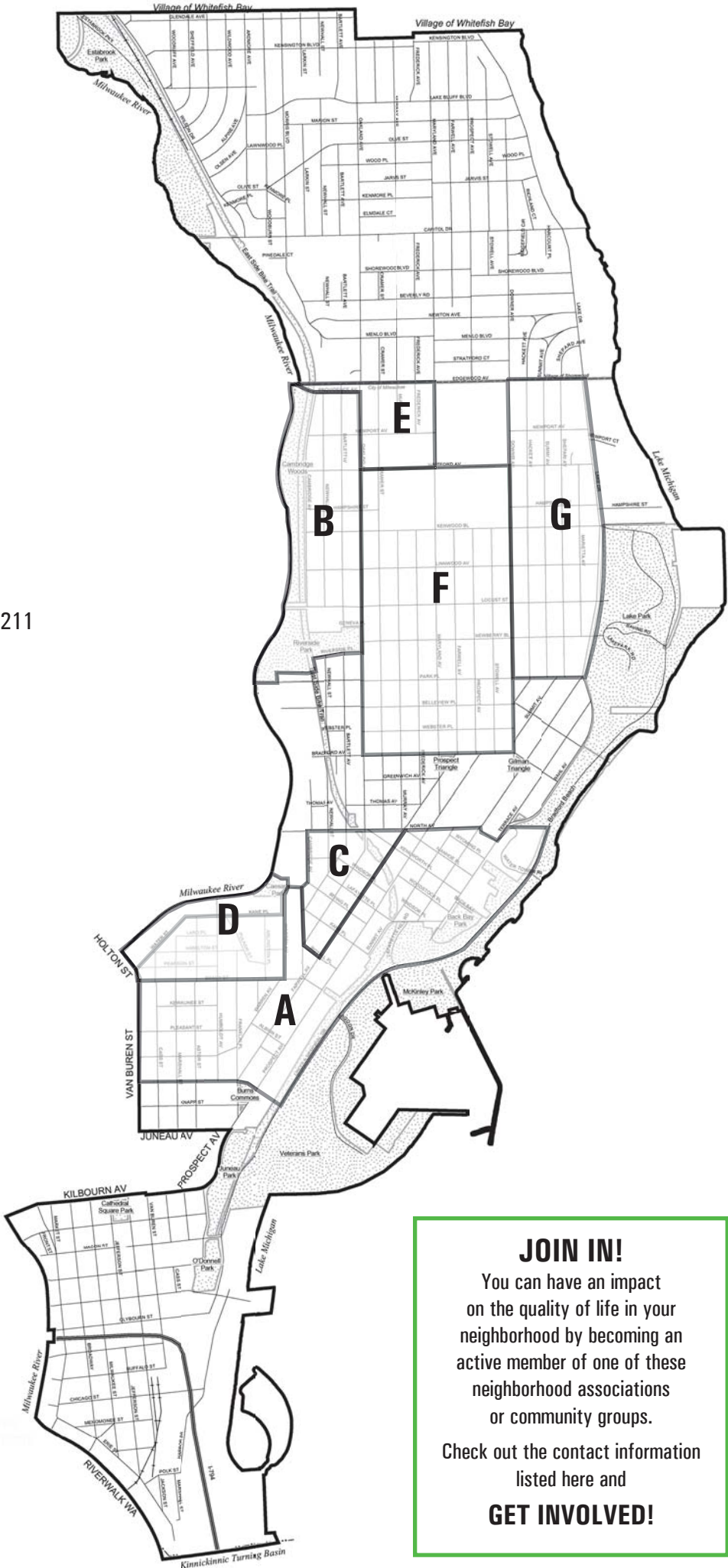
This structure was likewise designed for both pedestrians and bicyclists and connects Ceasar's Park on the east bank of the Milwaukee River with the west bank just east of Commerce Street.

Milwaukee's 3rd District Neighborhood Associations

- A** Brady Street Association: 1218 E. Brady Street Mke 53202
Pat Suminski, President (414) 274-2553, (414) 744-5156
- B** Cambridge Woods: 3038 N. Bartlett Ave. Mke 53211
Peter McMullen, President (414) 263-8751
- C** East Bank Neighborhood Association: 1508 E. Kane Place Mke 53202
Daryl Ransom, President (414) 277-7870
- D** East Village Association: 1314 E. Hamilton Street Mke 53202
Lisa Christopherson, President (414) 277-0490
- E** Mariners' Neighborhood Association: 3455 N. Murray Ave. Mke 53211
Mike Panlener, President (414) 962-6688
- F** Murray Hill Neighborhood Association: 1811 E. Kenwood Blvd. Mke 53211
Kay Baldwin, President (414) 332-8979
- G** Watertower Landmark Trust: 3412 N. Summit Ave. Mke 53211
Toni McBride, President (414) 964-3555

Community Associations

- Lake Park Friends: P.O. Box 71197 Mke 53211
Joe Wilson, President (414) 226-3052
- East Side Transportation Management Association
2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Mke 53212
Peter McMullen, President (414) 263-8751
- East Town Business Association: 770 North Jefferson Street Mke 53202
Randy Prasse, President (414) 271-1416
- North Point Lighthouse Friends: P.O. Box 930 53201
John Scripp, President Friends@NorthPointLighthouse.org
- Come Home Riverside Foundation: 1615 E. Locust Street Mke 53211
Jan Gibson, President (414) 291-9076
- Shorewood Senior Resource Center
2010 E. Shorewood Boulevard Shorewood 53211
Elizabeth Price, Program Director (414) 847-2727
- Urban Ecology Center: 1500 E. Park Place Mke 53211
Ken Leinbach, President (414) 964-8505



JOIN IN!

You can have an impact on the quality of life in your neighborhood by becoming an active member of one of these neighborhood associations or community groups.

Check out the contact information listed here and

GET INVOLVED!